

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 DHA-02 SS-15 NSC-05

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /056 W

-----089923 111035Z /21

O 110955Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8394

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DURBAN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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LONDON FOR AMBASSADOR BOWDLER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SF US PINT

SUBJ: FALSE ALLEGATIONS THAT US CONSUL'S WIFE

PARTICIPATED IN CAPE DEMONSTRATION

REF: CAPE TOWN 1188 (NOTAL)

1. UNDERSTAND US MEDIA HAVE PICKED UP REPORTS THAT MRS. JUDITH WILLIAMS, WIFE OF US CAPE TOWN CONSUL THOMAS WILLIAMS, WAS PART OF GROUP OF WHITES WHO APPEARED AT MODDERDAM SQUATTER CAMP YESTERDAY AUGUST 10 WITH THE INTENTION OF OBSTRUCTING DEPARTMENT OF WORKS DEMOLITION OF SQUATTER SHACKS (REFTEL).

2. WHILE MRS. WILLIAMS WAS AT MODDERDAM YESTERDAY MORNING, SHE WENT THERE INDEPENDENTLY ON HER OWN INITIATIVE TO OFFER ASSISTANCE TO A FAMILY OF HER ACQUAINTANCE IN CONNECTION
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WITH FAMILY'S FORCED MOVE. MRS. WILLIAMS HAS BEEN SEEKING TO AID THE SQUATTERS AND RECENTLY TOOK IN INFANT QUADRUPLETS OF ONE FAMILY UNTIL CAPE TOWN RELIEF ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS SHELTER FOUND ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION FOR THEM. SHE HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED IN THIS EFFORT WITH A MULTIRACIAL ORGANIZATION CALLED THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT. MEMBERS OF THAT ORGANIZATION MAY HAVE BEEN PART OF THE WHITE GROUP

AT MODDERDAM YESTERDAY, BUT MRS. WILLIAMS WAS NOT AMONG THEM. SHE WAS NOT PRESENT WHEN THE FRONT-END LOADERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WORKS ARRIVED SHORTLY AFTER NOON TO BEGIN THE DEMOLITION OF SHACKS. (IN FACT, MOST IF NOT ALL OF THE GROUP OF WHITES HAD ALSO LEFT BY THAT TIME.) MRS. WILLIAMS WAS THEREFORE NOT AT THE CAMP AT THE TIME OF THE CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN THE POLICE AND SQUATTERS ATTEMPTING TO OBSTRUCT THE DEMOLITION WORK.

3. SOME SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS REPORTS, UNFORTUNATELY, STATE THAT MRS. WILLIAMS WAS PART OF THE GROUP OF WHITE DEMONSTRATORS. MOST PAPERS MERELY MAKE A MENTION OF IT, BUT THE PRO-SAG ENGLISH-LANGUAGE "CITIZEN" CARRIES THE INCORRECT STORY WITH FRONT-PAGE BANNER HEADLINE "US CONSUL'S WIFE JOINS CAPE DEMO", AND AFRIKAANS "BEELD" EDITORIALY SUGGESTS AMERICAN AMBASSADOR'S RECALL SHOULD BE DEMANDED.

4. THE PRESS ALSO LEARNED OF THE THREATENING CALL CONGEN CAPE TOWN RECEIVED EARLY YESTERDAY MORNING (CAPE TOWN 1186 (NOTAL) AND SUGGESTS A POSSIBLE CONNECTION BETWEEN THAT CALL AND THE REPORTS ABOUT MRS. WILLIAMS. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO DETERMINE HOW THE MEDIA LEARNED OF THE CALL WHICH WAS MADE HOURS BEFORE ANY OF THE ACTIVITY AT MODDERDAM.

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5. WE HAVE SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND ARE SEEKING A CORRECTION OF THE NEWS REPORTS.
NELSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEFAMATION, CONSULS, ALLEGATIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS, SQUATTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Litigation Code IDs:
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 CAPE TOWN 1188
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1631528
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FALSE ALLEGATIONS THAT US CONSUL'S WIFE PARTICIPATED IN CAPE DEMONSTRATION
TAGS: PINT, SOPN, SF, US, (WILLIAMS, JUDITH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f054105c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009